

**STUDENT
HANDBOOK
2010/2011**

EZRA ACADEMY STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK

SCHOOL PROFILE

Ezra Academy serves students with varied Judaic Studies background by offering them an individually tailored program of Hebrew, Biblical Studies and Jewish Law & Customs, while providing a New York State accredited program of Regents and AP level secular courses. The school attracts students from all five boroughs of New York City, Long Island, and Westchester. Ezra Academy was founded in 1968.

SCHOOL

80% of Ezra's teachers have at least a Master's degree. We have a full time social worker and a part time librarian.

MARKING SYSTEM AND GPA:

90 - 100	Superior Achievement
80 - 89	Above Average
70 - 79	Average
65 - 69	Below Average
Below 65	Failing

Averages are calculated each semester, and include all English majors and a Judaic Studies average, which reflects four courses taken in the morning by each student. Students are given credit for a general studies course if their average for the January and June semesters is above 65 and they must pass each semester of a Judaic studies course. Honor Roll and National Honor Society are based on a average of 88 or higher in both secular and Judaic studies. Judaic Studies Honor Roll requires an 88 average or higher in Judaic studies. High Honor Roll is attained when every grade is 90 or higher. To receive any of these honors a student cannot have an NI or U in conduct.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS:

English	4 years	Social Studies	4 years
Math	3 years	Science	3 years
Judaic Studies	4 years	Hebrew Language	3 years
Computers	1 year	Jewish History & Holocaust	2 years
Art	1 year	Physical Education	4 years

Electives (not all offered every term)

Intro to Law, Criminal Justice, Drama, Business Law, Constitutional Law, Public Speaking, First Aid/CPR, Programming, AP Environmental Science, Forensic Science, Psychology, Accounting, Calculus, AP US History, Portfolio Art, Computer Graphics, Sociology, Marketing, Spanish, AP Political Science, AP Psych

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

Girls & Boys Basketball, Chess, Soccer and Softball Teams
Newspaper, Senior Yearbook
National Honor Society - includes Peer Tutoring Program
Community Service Projects: Nursing Home Visitations, Food Drive, Clothing Drive, Toy Drive, Jewish Poor Home Delivery and Visitation Program, HASC Chanukah Fair, Yad Eliezer Charity Drive, Student Counsel (GO)
Mock Trial, Forensic Science Team, Debate Team, Moot Court, Extemporaneous Speaking, International Law Team, Model UN

COLLEGE CHOICES

100% of our students are accepted into college. Many attend one year of Yeshiva or Seminary in Israel for the year after high school; about 20% attend a junior college and will then transfer to a four year institution. Our students have been accepted to:

Cornell, Adelphi Columbia CUNY Queens CUNY Brooklyn New York University , Hofstra

SUNY Albany St. Johns Yeshiva University Touro Syracuse, SUNY Binghamton, SUNY Buffalo CW Post CUNY Baruch LIU Polytechnic Institute Tel Aviv University CUNY Hunter CUNY John Jay Pratt Institute School of Visual Arts

SCHOOL RULES

Students are to be in school at 7:55 a.m. daily. **ATTENDANCE IS TAKEN AT 8 A.M. EXACTLY.**

Students are required to have notebook, **COVERED** textbooks, pens, pencils, calculators and other required materials in classes daily. If required, students will have to purchase review or work books. Any lost, misplaced, seriously damaged or stolen book must be paid for and replaced.

You may bring a Kosher lunch or buy one from the school.

Junior high school students (grades 7 and 8) may not leave the school building **at any time during the day before dismissal.**

9th through 12th graders may leave the building **during their recess only.**

NO STUDENT is allowed to cross Queens Blvd. at any time during the day. **Any student who violates this rule may be immediately suspended or expelled.**

Students are not allowed in to buy non-Kosher sandwiches, etc. from nearby stores, and non-Kosher restaurants and similar stores are "off limits" during the school day, which includes coming and leaving school in the morning and in the afternoon.

No student has a free period, unless specifically notified by Rabbi Freilich or Mrs. Hirschman. During free periods students may stay in the lunch room, Bais Medrash or the library. If a student in any grade has last period(s) free, his or her class will be dismissed early.

Students who have an appointment with the school social worker must hand in any homework due when they give the teacher the excuse note **before** keeping the appointment. Students may not miss test periods for these appointments, and are responsible for all work missed.

Cutting a class or fighting (even "fooling around" which involves touching another student) will result in immediate suspension from the school. Cutting means being out of class without permission of the office, or leaving school without the school's receiving parental permission, and the student's signing out in the office. Fighting is any touching, pushing, grabbing or hurting another student. **In school suspension is immediate in all cases.** **The penalty for cheating in any exam is a 0 on the test or quiz;** students who cheat on midterms, finals or Regents will automatically fail the course. ANY SUSPICION OF CHEATING WILL BE TREATED IN THE SAME WAY.

All scheduled trips are required for all students. Please do not make other appointments for your child.

THERE IS A COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENT OF 25 HOURS PER YEAR FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. STUDENTS MUST REGISTER WITH MS. FISH BEFORE NOVEMBER 1 AS TO WHERE THEY WILL BE DOING THEIR COMMUNITY SERVICE AND MUST HAND IN APPROPRIATE PAPERWORK BEFORE MIDTERMS AND FINALS.

There is no gum, soda, food or beverages allowed in classrooms. All eating must be done in the lunchroom. THERE IS NO GUM CHEWING ALLOWED IN THE BUILDING AT ANY TIME.

Students must turn off all beepers or cellular phones in school. They may not be left on silent or vibrate modes. Any cell phone which goes off or is found to be on or is used during the school day will be confiscated for an extended period of time. Parents will not be allowed to pick them up. Ipods and similar devices may be used only in the lunchroom. Students may not watch videos or use the internet during the school day.

Cigarettes, alcohol and any other stimulants (legal or illegal) will be confiscated from any student, and will result in the student's suspension or expulsion. Students' lockers, bookbags, pocketbooks or persons may be subject to search.

Students will be subject to random drug testing at the discretion of the administration.

Students must receive permission to leave a class for the bathroom, and should not ask for such permission immediately after recess or a lunch period. Any student who is ill and in the bathroom MUST get another student to notify the school office or his or her teacher, or they will be considered as cutting.

A teacher may require students to have tests signed. The student must return such signed tests the following day. Parents may also be notified by warning letter about failed tests.

Lateness to class may result in points off the course average.

Excessive lateness or absence to school will result in points taken off a student's English and History averages on their report cards and permanent transcripts.

All work must be handed in on time; any homework or tests missed must be made up on the day a student returns to school.

Students may sign out of school **ONLY** when we receive a phone call from an authorized person (parent or someone on the Emergency Card) or with a note from parent. Parents are required to find out whether the student has a test on that day. We will verify all calls signing a student out of school. There are certain days and certain conditions under which students will not be allowed to sign out.

Students must take all tests on scheduled days if they are in school. If a student signs out of school on the day an exam is scheduled, he/she may not have a make-up test scheduled and will be penalized for missing the test. Teachers do not have to allow makeup tests unless they feel the circumstances or their policies warrant them.

Students who fail 3 or more subjects (Jewish and/or General Studies) or who are persistent behavior problems or at the discretion of the administration may be asked to leave the school in January or June.

Any boy who fails 3 out of 6 Hebrew subjects or any girl who fails 4 out of 8 Hebrew subjects in a year may be subject to expulsion. Any student who fails a Hebrew subject in June will be required to do summer work. ***Any senior who fails a Judaic class in June, will not receive a diploma and no transcripts will be released until they finish the summer requirements.***

Any use of technology (email, Facebook, Myspace, texting) to threaten, harass, defame or “put down” Ezra teachers, faculty or Ezra itself will result in penalties up to and including expulsion. **NO picture or video taken in the school or school activity may be posted** on Facebook, Myspace, Youtube or similar sites without express permission from the school administration.

THE ADMINISTRATION RESERVES THE RIGHT TO NOTIFY THE STUDENTS OF NEW RULES OR CHANGES TO EXISTING RULES DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR.

PARENTS AND STUDENTS MUST SIGN THE LAST PAGE OF THIS HANDBOOK AND RETURN IT TO SCHOOL.

STUDENT DRESS CODE

NO HOODS OR HATS MAY BE WORN IN SCHOOL

GIRLS:

BUTTON DOWN SHIRT WHICH BUTTONS TO THE COLLAR, (NOT ELASTICIZED AT CHEST), MUST BE LOOSE ENOUGH NOT TO PULL AT BUTTONS. SHIRT MUST NOT BE SEE - THROUGH.

A-LINE SKIRT, NO SLIT, BELOW THE KNEE
NO FLIP-FLOPS, BEACH SHOES OR SLIPPERS
NO PANTS OR PAJAMA BOTTOMS BENEATH SKIRTS.

BOYS:

BUTTON DOWN SHIRT OR COLLARED 3-BUTTON SHIRT. NO T-SHIRT OR TURTLE NECK UNDERNEATH.

NEAT PANTS, NO RIPS, NO BAGGY PANTS, NO "DISTRESSED" PANTS

SHOES OR SNEAKERS & SOCKS

HAIR MUST BE OF ACCEPTABLE LENGTH, AND WITHIN SCHOOL GUIDELINES.

STUDENTS WHO VIOLATE DRESS CODE WILL:

A) RECEIVE A SUSPENSION ON THEIR RECORD

AND

B) BE SENT HOME TO CHANGE

Ezra Academy Language Rules:

1. No foul language.
2. No fight-inciting or threatening language, including “joking.”
(You can’t say, “I’ll kill you, or I’ll see you after school...” to imply a threat.)
3. No harassing or biased language.
4. English only – if we hear you speaking another language we will assume you are saying one of the above.

COMPREHENSIVE ATTENDANCE POLICY

REVISED & EFFECTIVE JANUARY 2009

In accordance with the New York State Board of Regents regulations concerning pupil attendance which require every school to develop a written comprehensive attendance policy, Ezra Academy has formulated a Comprehensive Attendance Policy. Based on our analysis of how this policy was working, we are implementing several changes. As parents, teachers and students are aware, Ezra Academy is very concerned with issues of students' attendance to maintain order, discipline and outstanding academic performance.

Attendance is taken each morning in each davening session and reported to the main office by the end of that period. Attendance forms will be handed in for each class during the first five minutes of class and sent in immediately to the office.

The school secretary will then check with that day's sign outs and report to the principal if the student cannot be accounted for. Any student who signs in or out after the first period will be signed in or out by the secretary, who will immediately enter them into the computerized attendance record. Students must have parental permission to sign in late or leave school early.

The school's lateness and absence policy for students is as follows:

ABSENCES: 1. STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE A WARNING AFTER 3 ABSENCES, LATENESSES OR SIGNOUTS.

2. AFTER 5 ABSENCES, LATENESSES OR SIGNOUTS IN ANY TERM, (JANUARY OR JUNE), STUDENTS WILL LOSE 2 POINTS FROM THEIR JANUARY OR JUNE HISTORY AND/OR ENGLISH AVERAGE.
3. **FAMILY VACATIONS ARE NOT EXCUSED ABSENCES. MIDTERM AND FINAL EXAMS WILL NOT BE RESCHEDULED FOR VACATIONS.**

LATENESS: 3. SCHOOL STARTS AT 8 A.M. PROMPTLY - STUDENTS WILL RECEIVE A WARNING LETTER AFTER 3 LATENESSES.

4. AFTER 5 LATENESSES IN A TERM, STUDENTS WILL LOSE 2 POINTS PER INCIDENT OFF OF STUDENTS JANUARY AND JUNE ENGLISH AND/OR HISTORY GRADE(WHICH IS PART OF THEIR PERMANENT TRANSCRIPT AVERAGE.)

No student may sign in later than 10:20 or leave earlier than 11:40 without a doctor's note. Any student who is late in the morning (past 10 a.m.) may NOT take an afternoon test.

STUDENTS WHO SIGN OUT FOR AFTERNOON CLASSES WILL BE LISTED AS ABSENT FOR THOSE CLASSES; TEACHERS MAY DEDUCT 2 POINTS PER DAY FOR EACH EXCESSIVE ABSENCE IN ANY SPECIFIC CLASS. Penalties or makeup tests are solely at the discretion of each teacher.

PARENTS WHO WANT TO SIGN THEIR CHILDREN OUT DURING THE DAY **(FOR AN EMERGENCY ONLY, PLEASE)**, MUST CALL OR SEND IN A NOTE, AND MUST BE ABLE TO BE CALLED BACK AT THEIR HOME OR WORK NUMBER LISTED WITH OUR OFFICE. OTHERWISE STUDENTS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE.

The following exceptions will be made for students:

1. If a van is late, that lateness is not counted on a record UNLESS HE/SHE DOES NOT REPORT DIRECTLY TO CLASS.

2. A reasonable number of absences or latenesses with a doctor's note will not be counted against a student, although they must be listed on a record. DOCTOR'S NOTE MUST BE BROUGHT IN, MAILED OR FAXED IN WITHIN 2 DAYS OF THE ABSENCE TO BE COUNTED. **EVEN WITH DR'S NOTES, A STUDENT MAY BE PENALIZED FOR EXCESSIVE ABSENCES.**

3. *We will not record latenesses on days that public bus service is unavailable, interrupted or delayed by inclement weather.*

4. **ANY STUDENT WITH A COMBINED TOTAL OF 20 OR MORE LATENESSES AND/OR ABSENCES MAY NOT BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THE SCHOOL OR TO GRADUATE IN JUNE.**

Our computer system lists students as Absent, Late or Signed Out. Teachers will report students as either absent or late. Students who are suspended are marked Absent.

Whenever a student is absent, he/she receives a phone call from the office confirming the absence and the reason for it. If there is any question about the answer, the principal will call a parent's business number to pursue the matter further. A student who cuts school will be suspended and cannot return to school without meeting with the principal and his/her parents.

In January and June, prior to issuing report cards, the principal reviews attendance records and contacts parents and students in cases of excessive absences or latenesses and applies appropriate penalties.

Students with perfect attendance records will be recognized with special awards at year end assemblies.

We hope that these new guidelines will improve the attendance of our students and enhance the education that they receive.

This policy will be included in our mailing to parents and students at the beginning of the year as part of the Student Handbook and will be provided to teachers at the teachers' meeting at the beginning of the school year. A copy of this policy will be kept on file in the school office and is available to any member of the community on request.

ATTENTION ALL STUDENTS:

PLEASE TURN OFF ALL CELL PHONES AND PAGERS WHEN YOU ENTER THIS BUILDING.

KEEP ALL TURNED OFF (NOT ON VIBRATE OR ON SILENT) CELL PHONES OR PAGERS IN LOCKERS OR POCKETBOOKS.

ANY STUDENT'S CELL PHONE/PAGER THAT IS SEEN, USED, THAT IS FOUND TO BE ON (EVEN ON VIBRATE OR SILENT) OR THAT GOES OFF IN THIS BUILDING DURING SCHOOL HOURS, WHICH ARE 8AM – 5:40PM (EVEN IF YOU FINISH SCHOOL EARLIER THAN 5:40, YOUR PHONE CAN NOT BE ON) WILL BE CONFISCATED AND WILL NOT BE RETURNED FOR SEVERAL WEEKS.

IF YOU NEED TO USE YOUR PHONE FOR AN EMERGENCY YOU MAY DO SO BY COMING TO THE OFFICE AND REQUESTING PERMISSION.

CELL PHONES MAY NOT BE USED IN THE BATHROOM.

DATE _____

I HAVE RECEIVED THE EZRA ACADEMY RULES FOR THE 2007~2008 AND
AGREE TO ABIDE BY ALL OF THE REGULATIONS OF THE
SCHOOL.

FULL STUDENTS NAME (PRINT) _____

STUDENT'S SIGNATURE _____

PARENT'S
SIGNATURE _____

PLEASE BRING IN TO SCHOOL OR MAIL BACK WITH ALL REGISTRATION
FORMS.